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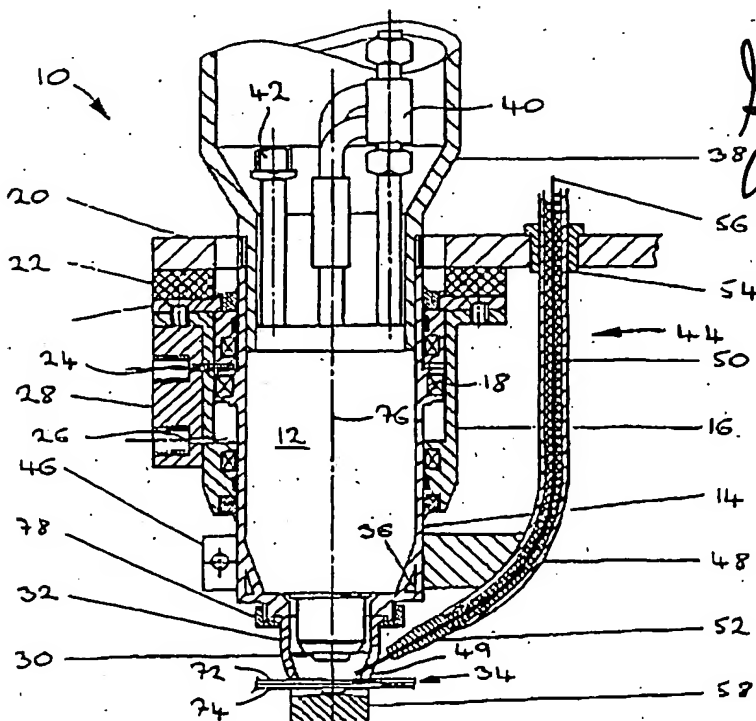
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(54) Title: WELDING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A welding apparatus (10) for welding two or more overlapping members (72, 74) having a tenacious surface oxide layer, the apparatus (10) comprising a plasma arc torch (12) operable to form a weld pool (80) in a work piece (34), and weld pool disturbing means operable, in use, to disturb a weld pool (80) formed by the plasma arc torch (12), the weld pool disturbing means comprising a disturbing member (56) which is movable into the weld pool (80). The apparatus (10) may include a support member (58) adapted to support the weld pool (80).

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